

Amendment to the Claims

Claims 1-22. (Cancelled).

23. (Original) An apparatus for hoisting and positioning a joint of casing, comprising:
- a top drive system, comprising:
 - a lifting elevator, wherein the lifting elevator is capable of being coupled to a casing string comprising a plurality of joints of casing, such that the top drive system can hoist the casing string;
 - a transfer elevator, wherein the transfer elevator is capable of coupling to a joint of casing such that the top drive system can hoist the joint of casing;
 - a handler operatively coupled to the transfer elevator to rotate the transfer elevator along a horizontal plane;
 - a link tilt comprising one or more hydraulic actuators wherein the link tilt is coupled to the transfer elevator such that the extension or retraction of the hydraulic actuators can pivot the transfer elevator about a point located on a vertical axis.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the handler and the hydraulic actuators can be remotely controlled.

Claims 25-27 (Cancelled).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Fulghum', written over a horizontal line.

Roger Fulghum

Reg. No. 39,678

Baker Botts L.L.P.
One Shell Plaza
910 Louisiana Street
Houston, Texas 77002-4995
(713) 229-1707
Attorney Docket No.: 064552.0249

Date: January 16, 2004